

Application No. 10/730,720
Amendment dated December 21, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 21, 2004

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

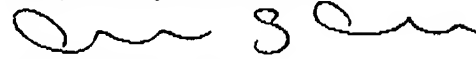
Applicants thank the Examiner for the Office Action of December 21, 2004. This Amendment is in full response thereto.

Applicants have canceled claims 36-41 in order to prosecute three different aspects of the invention embodied in new claims 51-74. Thus, all rejections are respectfully deemed moot. With respect to the now moot rejections under 35 USC 112(2), Applicants believe new claims 51-74 in Jepson claim format have addressed any issues that may have been raised in those rejections.

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application now stands in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should the examiner believe a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of the application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

A Fee Transmittal is being contemporaneously submitted with this Amendment covering fees for an additional 4 claims. Otherwise it is believed that no fee is due at this time. If that belief should be incorrect, the Commissioner is authorized to debit Deposit Account No. 01-1375 to cover any fees due. The Commissioner is also authorized to credit Deposit Account No. 01-1375 for any overpayments.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to
telephone number 703-872-9306 on this 21st day of December, 2004.



Christopher J. Cronin
Registration Number 46,513